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## **Survey: ND Leads Nation In Public Support for Schools**

**BISMARCK, N.D., March 14, 2016** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Monday applauded the results of a Gallup poll that shows North Dakotans have the most positive views of public education in the nation.

Of the North Dakotans surveyed, 89 percent said they believed their schools were “excellent or good” in grades kindergarten through 12. In a similar Gallup survey, taken two years ago, the percentage of North Dakotans who had a good-to-excellent impression of their public schools was 87 percent.

“I’m pleased that these poll results show that our efforts are paying off,” Baesler said Monday. “We’ve worked hard these last three years to create opportunities for our parents to become involved in their child’s education and for our communities to provide input into the direction that they feel that K-12 education should go. We can and must do more to continue those efforts.”

The latest results are based on a Gallup poll, conducted from March 30 through Dec. 22 of 2015. Pollsters conducted about 500 interviews in every state.

The survey also reported about nine in 10 North Dakotans believe their public school system prepares students for success in the workplace.

“We all realize we have some hard work ahead of us to fully prepare our students for their future and to get them all where they need to be academically when they graduate from high school. But that work is easier when parents are supportive,” Baesler said. “Our efforts go a lot further when parents and community members are involved, helping us shape the direction that our K-12 system needs to go.”

State Sen. Tim Flakoll, R-Fargo, the chairman of the North Dakota Senate’s Education Committee, said North Dakota’s public school system has strong support and high levels of student achievement because of the state’s history of focusing on local control of school administration.

“North Dakota works best when it works together,” Flakoll said. “Excellence begins with families that support education, and extends through teachers, administrators, school board members and state leaders. We want everything for our kids in North Dakota, and for me, everything starts with a good education.”

State Rep. Mike Nathe, R-Bismarck, chairman of the North Dakota House’s Education Committee, said the survey “shows that the people of North Dakota overwhelmingly support the investment that the state has made in K-12 education.”

(Continued)

“The hard work of the education community in North Dakota has been effective in their local communities, and the poll bears that out,” Nathe said. “I was especially encouraged to see the support grow from 87 percent in 2013 to 89 percent this year.”

Details about the survey can be found here:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/189896/north-dakota-residents-positive-schools.aspx>

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